

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 4-7, 10, 11, 24 and 28 are allowable on page 3 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 8, 12-23, 25-27 and 29 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 4-7, 10, 11, 24 and 28 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicants note that the present amendment cancels non-elected claims 12-23, 25-27 and 29 (which the Examiner has withdrawn from consideration) as well as claim 8 (which is the only claim in the application which is subject to a rejection). Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present amendment is clearly proper for entry after Final, and respectfully request entry of the same.

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On pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants note that claim 8 has been canceled by the present amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Therefore this rejection is deemed to be moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants note that the Examiner has previously indicated that all of the remaining claims 4-7, 10, 11, 24 and 28 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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